

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 03738 031828Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O 031425Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0403

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3738

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PO US

SUBJ: LAJES BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. DURING VISIT HERE, COMUSFORAZ WARNED US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT NAVY WAS PLANNING A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN P-3 OPERATIONS FROM LAJES STARTING FIRST WEEK SEPT. SEVEN TO EIGHT P-3S NOW OPERATING FROM BASE WOULD INCREASE TO 13 OR 14. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS TEMPORARY INCREASE RELATED TO SPECIAL EXERCISE OR WHETHER IT WILL BE PERMANENT.

2. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS EMBASSY WISHES TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT NAVY HAS KEPT YOU INFORMED.

3. ALTHOUGH P-3 FLIGHTS ARE CARRIED OUT IN LOW KEY MANNER, AND THE AIRCRAFT THEMSELVES ARE PARKED AT FAR END OF FIELD WHERE THEY ARE NOT READILY VISIBLE, THE AIR ZONE AND THE PORTUGUESE EMPLOYEES CANNOT HELP BUT BE AWARE OF THIS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ACTIVITY.
POST

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